

Section 3.4(a) Press Releases

EPA News Release

03-032

June 20, 2003

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Skokomish Indian Tribe Awarded Brownfields Redevelopment Grant

The Skokomish Indian Tribe in Western Washington has been selected to receive a \$110,939 national Brownfields redevelopment grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant -- announced today by EPA Administrator Christie Whitman in Washington, D.C. -- will help the Skokomish Tribe assess contamination at an abandoned state transportation maintenance yard, and conduct cleanup planning leading to a possible wastewater treatment plant.

Following the national awards ceremony, the grant was announced locally today by EPA Regional Administrator John Iani.

"Brownfields grants are good for the environment and good for the local economy," said Iani. "By cleaning-up industrial property and returning it to productive use, the Skokomish Reservation will move toward a more sustainable economic base."

Communities interested in Brownfields Program assistance may attend the upcoming Brownfields 2003 Conference in Portland, Oregon. The conference includes sessions by national leaders in economic revitalization, an exhibit hall and a brownfields bookstore. The EPA sponsored conference, October 27-29, is free to all registrants. (www.brownfields2003.org)

More information about the project and the grant can be found in the online fact sheet at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/03grants/skokomish.htm>

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The Olympian

www.theolympian.com

111 Bethel St. NE - Olympia, WA

Legals

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If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Date of First Publication of this Notice: October 17, 2004
/s/sLorrie Nerney,
Personal Representative
Address for Mailing of Service:
P.O. Box 93
Olympia, WA 98507

Publish:
October 17, 24, 31, 2004

Legal #9649

LEGAL NOTICE

The Skokomish Tribal Council is requesting PROPOSALS for a "Brownfield's" Environmental Assessment of the former Washington State Department of Transportation's Potlatch Maintenance Yard, located within the Skokomish Indian Reservation boundaries on Highway 101. Scope of Work and documentation with specifics can be reviewed from either www.skokomish.org, or from

Winona Plant,
Personnel Dir.

Legals

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The Skokomish Indian Tribe
c/o N.80 Tribal Center Road
Shelton, WA 98584
360 427-6936 x 209

Proposals are due 3:00PM, November 5, 2004, with Bid opening scheduled at 4:00PM at the above address, Tribal Council Room. A site visit is scheduled week of 10/25/04. Questions please contact Skokomish Natural Resources at (360) 877-5213.

Publish: October 24, 2004

Legal #9665

INVITATION TO BID FOR COURT REPORTER SERVICES

The Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals is inviting interested parties to submit bids for Court Reporter services for the entire state of Washington.

Bid specifications should be available for distribution on or before November 1, 2004.

Anyone interested in bidding, please contact:

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Shelton-Mason County Journal
Nov. 18, 2004

Sea Grant to host water-quality clinic

A free "Simple Techniques" drop-in clinic being put on by the Washington Sea Grant Program will be held in Belfair at the end of this month.

Organizers say that members of the public can come to the clinic to learn simple ways to not only help improve the water quality of Hood Canal, but also save money while doing so. The drop-in clinic will be held from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, at the North Mason Timberland Region-

al Library in Belfair.

Organizers say that they have some 4,000 free fine-mesh screens, which are designed to prevent food particles from going down kitchen drains and can reduce a septic tank's nitrogen level anywhere from 3 to 5 percent, that will be available for pickup by homeowners in the Mason County portion of the Hood Canal watershed. Officials say they will also be working with 50 households in the watershed to collect all of the gunk from their mesh

screens for a period of a week so that they can analyze exactly what residents in the Hood Canal watershed are removing with the screens.

Washington Sea Grant Program staff will be on hand to answer questions about on-site sewage system operation and maintenance, aquaculture, organic gardening and composting and how to properly dispose of pet waste and distribute screens.

Those that would like more in-

formation about the clinic should contact Janis McNeal or Teri King by calling 360-432-3054 or sending an e-mail to jmcneal@u.washington.edu.

The clinic is provided through funding by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State that is being administered by the Puget Sound Action Team and coordinated by the Washington Sea Grant Program out of the University of Washington.

Shelton - Mason County Journal
On Tuesday, November 30:

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Firms in search for oxygen fix

By SEAN HANLON

Specialists have been sniffing around Mason County in their search for people who would like to increase the oxygen in Hood Canal by reducing the seepage of nitrogen from septic tanks planted on its shores.

Supported by a grant from the Puget Sound Action Team, they are part of an effort that combines the resources of local, state and federal government agencies. The hope is that a way can be found to involve people who live and work on the shores of Hood Canal in cleaning up what has become something of a mess.

The canal has been the scene of a number of large fish kills in recent years, and that has state and

federal officials looking for ways to prevent reoccurrences. The consensus is that the fish suffocated after finding themselves in water with abnormally low levels of dissolved oxygen, that being the kind which fish breathe through their gills.

"Hood Canal is in jeopardy, and action is needed now to safeguard the canal and its spectacular marine life," said Governor Gary Locke.

THIS REMARK was made last month when Locke and Congressman Norm Dicks announced that the state's Puget Sound Action Team was awarding \$790,000 in grants to 14 organizations which have promised to work on ways to address the prob-

lem. "These projects focus on priority needs, encompass diverse partnerships and represent a critical, initial investment into the work necessary to correct the problem facing Hood Canal," the governor said.

Ken Moody's piece of the oxygen pie is a device that can be installed in septic systems that are already working as they are supposed to but may still be dumping too much nitrogen into the ecosystem. Nitrogen is a fertilizer that encourages the uncontrolled growth of microbes that suck up so much oxygen there's not enough left for the fish.

"Nitrogen steals the oxygen from the soil and the water," Moody said. "It's causing the oxygen problem in Hood Canal."

The Puget Sound Action Team has awarded a grant of \$42,000 to Environmental Earth Systems, a Puyallup-based company owned by Moody and his partner.

THE DEVICE in question has been certified by the National Sanitation Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. At the same time the Puget Sound Action Team has awarded two other grants of this kind in the amount of \$38,000 to B-Line Construction and Tahja-Syrett Designs and \$63,000 to Five Star Environmental Solutions, Incorporated. A fourth grant of \$46,000 will be awarded to a company which will monitor this program.

Don Wolliscroft of B-Line Construction and Toby Tahja-Syrett of the company that bears his name are residents of Mason County and partners in another approach to the problem. Building on established concepts, Tahja-Syrett has developed a septic system that turns the nitrogen in septage into a nitrous gas that is released away from the water and into the air.

Their system is designed to replace a failing septic system with one that will address new concerns about the effects of nitrogen on Hood Canal. "What we're working on developing is a system that meets all the parameters that other septic systems

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Septic firms join search for canal oxygen solution

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meet but also reduces the nitrogen," Tahja-Syrett said.

Jim Patterson of Five Star has been working in the Belfair area on what he calls "a package plan" that treats septage liquids to a point where it's of "drinking quality" and then pipes it away from the canal. Once the three systems have been installed on an experimental basis, the monitoring firm will take an objective look at how they work and report their findings to the Action Team.

"THESE ORGANIZATIONS will explore innovative ways to design and manage on-site sewage systems to reduce nitrogen and keep it from contaminating groundwater and adding to the canal's nitrogen problems," wrote Mary Getchell of the Action Team. "Currently, most systems along the canal and throughout Puget Sound do not adequately treat nitrogen, and therefore they can add to the low-dissolved-oxygen problems."

Another major factor contributing to the oxygen deficit is the geology of Hood Canal. Its long and relatively narrow shape tends to slow down the circulation of water, making for a relatively stagnant situation that is also conducive to the reproduction of oxygen-gobbling microbes.

This condition tends to be most severe along the shores of Mason County, the part of the canal most distant from more open and free-flowing waters of the Pacific Ocean and Puget Sound.

"Hood Canal is one of Puget Sound's most urgent environmental challenges, like a flashing red light warning about the marine environment," said Brad Ack, director of the Action Team. "The

projects we are funding demonstrate our collective commitment to reduce the serious decline in the canal."

THE \$790,000 in grants approved by the Action Team include several others which directly affect Mason County. They are:

- \$92,000 to the Skokomish Tribe and \$95,000 to American-Canadian Fisheries, Incorporated to develop alternative uses for chum salmon carcasses. Tribal members have been throwing the carcasses into the canal after removing the eggs. Under the terms of this grant, the tribe is working with the company to use the chum salmon to feed people, pets and livestock.

- \$12,000 to the Mason Conservation District to explore ways to treat agricultural livestock waste and fish carcasses using enclosed treatment systems. This same analysis will explore the potential benefits of the gas and fertilizer byproducts produced by such systems.

- \$160,000 to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council for the assessment of new septic technologies and to educate shoreline residents about their capabilities. The council will also look into the

question of whether financial incentives can be used to improve the on-site treatment of sewage. The Washington State Department of Ecology contributed \$120,000 to this fund.

- \$57,000 to the Mason County government for an analysis of how best to manage wastewater from homes and businesses in the shoreline area from Hoodsport to the Skokomish River. This study will look at technology options, management structure and land-use issues.

Congressman Dicks worked with his colleagues on Capitol Hill to secure \$500,000 in federal funds for these programs. "These projects are the first step on a long journey to restore Hood Canal's splendor and thriving marine environment," he said. "I am pleased to see these projects move forward, and I will continue to work with the Action Team and local partners to get the canal back to good health."

The Puget Sound Action Team will be distributing these funds over the next 13 months. Getchell said the agency received a total of 31 proposals requesting \$2.1 million for projects intended to improve the levels of dissolved oxygen in Hood Canal.



THIS SHIP OFF THE HOODSPORT shore is involved in a project that tries to reduce a surplus of nitrogen caused by chum carcasses.

Shelton-Mason County Journal 11/25/04

Tribe cracks down on chum dumping

By LAURIE YOUNG

The latest phase in a chum salvage program by American-Canadian Fisheries, a commercial fishing company, has been under way this month off Hoodsport on Hood Canal.

Three boats are now docked daily at the Sunrise Motel and Resort, courtesy of proprietor and Port of Hoodsport Commissioner Frank Benavente. The privately owned vessels are assisting in the project under contract to the company.

Whole salmon caught in dragnets, set nets, and beach seines around the south Hood Canal, are gathered in net pens next to the scow, *Robert S*, and pumped through a large conduit stretching along the docks to shore next to the motel, where workers load them into bins and onto a container to be trucked to the Bellingham fishery for processing. A smaller vessel, the *Norman S*, which is owned by Mike Gruunheim, assists the scow while the *Chief Kwina*, once a member of the Washington State Ferries fleet, waits to transport roe taken from the female bellies.

The fish are purchased from fishermen, as they are brought to the pens, for processing at American-Canadian Fisheries, a firm, managed by Andy Vitaljic of Bellingham, which has been dealing in both U.S. and Canadian waters since 1969.

THE PROGRAM began last month with a vessel anchored out in the canal off the Hoodspout Hatchery of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife collecting chum salmon from the boats of tribal fishermen harvesting the chum with beach seines off the hatchery pier. Hatchery waters are open twice weekly this year for a new chum-harvesting program established to address the problem of low levels of dissolved oxygen in Hood Canal.

Nutrient increases that have contributed to the problem come, in part, from the decomposition of chum carcasses which have previously been thrown back into the water after the roe is harvested from the female fish. Now Vitaljic's Bellingham company purchases the whole fish as part of a state program funded in part through the efforts of Congressman Norm Dicks, D-Belfair. The state has been working with the Skokomish Tribe, Vitaljic, and the Hoodspout hatchery to keep the carcasses out of the waters.

A recent load was taken to Bellingham for processing at the company plant and eventual use by the Washington State Department of Corrections and food banks in the state.

Vitaljic figures that some three million tons of chum ended up in the waters of Hood Canal last year alone. He credits Dave Herrera, fisheries director for the Skokomish Tribe, for his tireless work and determination to make this happen. Herrera recognizes that the future of the Hood Canal waters is the future of the tribe.

"THE TRIBE WANTS to do what it can to help Hood Canal," Herrera said. "By taking as many chum salmon carcasses out of the canal as possible, we might be able to help decrease the chances of further low dissolved oxygen problems."

Herrera noted that carcasses are only a small part of the problem. "An increase of nutrients into the canal from septic systems, agricultural practices and storm-water runoff will continue to pose a much greater threat to marine life in Hood Canal," he said.

Vitaljic bases his estimate on the dumping of carcasses on the one-quarter million tons of roe that have been harvested and sold in past seasons. "The tribe is taking the lead in this effort to

save these waters by working with us to facilitate one solution to the problem," he said.

He hopes the program will set an example that encourages other individuals and industries in the area to make the changes they can to help. Congressman Dicks is working to obtain grants for septic system improvements for homes and businesses along Hood Canal shores in an effort to help others correct another major part of the problem.

AS A COMMISSIONER and concerned business owner, Benavente considers the problem an important port issue and until the port can find ways to facilitate solutions, he's doing what he can personally. "I may lose some business," he said. "I have already. But I'm happy to contribute the use of my property. It's only for a few weeks while the chum run lasts. I'll be okay."

After the ship-to-shore pumping operation was put in place, only whole fish were being purchased to secure the roe profit which helps to pay for the company's expense in the program. Last week, some individuals began

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Tribe tackles nitrogen issue

(Continued from page 13.)

selling their harvested roe to competitors. They had outbid Vitaljic, who is investing much of his company's time, labor and contracts for shipping and processing in the effort.

"Those buyers don't handle a single carcass. They can pay more without the expense," he said. "Right now, I am mostly concerned that they continue to bring me the carcasses. The point is to solve this problem. We'll see how it goes this season. We'll need everyone's co-operation to continue it next year."

As of last week dumping in the Hoodport area had stopped, apparently as the result of enforcement actions taken by the Skokomish tribal police.

"THE GOAL IS to get everyone in line with the program; to make it worthwhile for everyone involved," reaffirmed Dick Fienstra, owner and operator of the *Robert S.* He said the process can benefit everyone in the industry if everyone cooperates.

Like others working at the site, Fienstra expressed enthusiasm for the project. Working the pump on his scow, he pointed out that the pumping arrangement is still a work in progress. "This whole thing was set up in one day," he said.

Although the present setup may be unsightly and inconvenient to shore residents, he said that improvements can be made as the program is developed. Meanwhile, he asks people to have patience with the effort.

"Think of it this way," he offered. "We're keeping the fish carcasses from washing up on your beach."

OVER THE COURSE of one morning Fienstra and his crew pumped 36,000 pounds of chum already that morning and had another 100,000 pounds waiting in the pen to be pumped. Meanwhile, back down the road, the hatchery's chum spawning operation was in progress. A team of "chumbusters" stood at the ready as the fish swam through the gate into the run. One worker with a baseball bat smacked the head of each as it was lifted out of the water, to hasten its death.

"They're ready to spawn and die - at their end already," a supervisor explained.

The males are squeezed of their sperm into one bucket; the bellies of the females are split and the eggs scraped off into another. These buckets are then combined for fertilization and "green" or clusters of unripe roe, is separated out. This roe is no good for spawn but is suitable for caviar and has been purchased by Vitaljic along with the discarded salmon which are fed over a conveyor onto the landing and loaded into waiting bins.

They will be sorted and pro-

cessed back in Bellingham, the males for use by food banks and prisons. Females no longer suitable for market will be ground, packed into cubes of ice, and sold to the Ralston-Purina Company, which processes it into cat food.

"THE FEMALE CHUM have little fat," explained John Zollner, operations manager for American-Canadian, as he supervised the truck loading on the dock. "This makes it better food for cats. It doesn't cause diarrhea in them, as other fish can."

Vitaljic has been doing business with the hatchery for the past 30 years. At 74, the well-preserved fish vendor exhibits the energy and looks of a man no older than 50, as he strides around the wharf, overseeing the loading, while keeping an ear by cell phone on the operations under way down at the Sunrise Motel.

Zollner, who has been with the company for four years, credits a marine diet for Vitaljic's good health. "He loves his fish," Zollner said.

Inside the fishery building, the combined eggs and sperm are measured into trays for incubation. The room is filled with narrow shelves where the trays are first disinfected in an iodine solution, which later is sloughed off as the eggs are bathed in water from Finch Creek which runs under the highway, through the fishery runs and into Hood Canal.

THE TIME OF incubation in each stage of development is determined by the calculation of accumulated temperature units, or TUs. A TU equals the degrees of daily creek-water temperature above 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or freezing. Over the course of a predetermined number of days, the zygote progresses to the embryo stage, at which time a black spot is visible inside the egg. The eggs that have not developed the "eye" by then are discarded, and the rest are re-incubated in the creek water.

At this stage, the sac-fry, with the yolk sacs still attached, are sorted and returned to incubation until TU totals reach the number for the fully developed fry to be "ponded," or released into a large pen outside. Chum fry are held here for about a month, until they are a few inches long, and then released to the fjord. Chinook are raised for about a year. Before they are released, the adipose fins are clipped and some fish are tagged, for future tracking in state research projects.